

NOTE ON *AËDINUS AMAZONENSIS*, LUTZ

BY

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Amongst a consignment of mosquitoes collected on board s.s. 'Hildebrand' by Dr. A. Aiken Clark, during a voyage up the Amazon to Manáos, in 1922, was 'a male specimen of *Culex* with reduced palpi. It appears to be closely related to *Culex* (*Carrollia*) *paraplesia*, Dyar (1922), and comparison with the description of *Aëdinus amazonensis*, Lutz, suggests that it belongs to this little-known species.

Culex, sp. incert.

MALE. Head. Occiput with narrow curved creamy scales intermixed with pale golden upright forked ones above, with flat white scales at sides below and coarse golden setae projecting forward round eye margins. Palpi slender, about one-seventh the length of the proboscis, vestiture of pale brown scales. Proboscis bent at outer two-thirds, expanding distally (these two conditions probably due to accident), scales blackish brown, labellae yellowish. Antennae densely plumose, hairs of whorls blackish brown.

Thorax. *Prothoracic lobes* pale ochraceous, with a few flat whitish scales above and a row of blackish setae. *Mesonotum* with integument bright ochraceous, iridescent; in certain lights a narrow median dark stripe visible; vestiture of hair-like, bronze-coloured scales, with paler reflections, the scales in front of ante-scutellar space paler. *Scutellum* pale brown, with pale scales.

Abdomen. Dorsally blackish-brown scaled, with minute creamy triangular lateral spots on the last two segments. Venter largely denuded.

Legs with vestiture of blackish-brown scales.

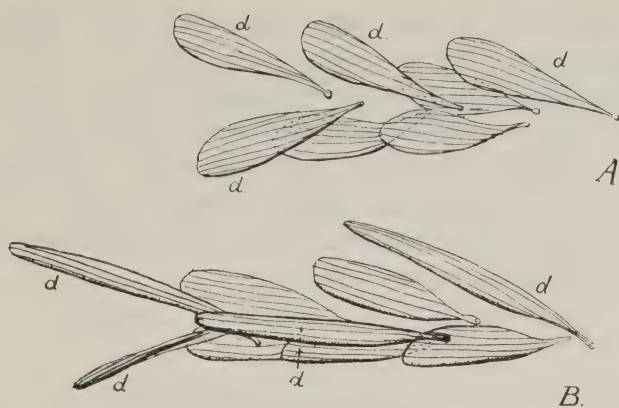
Wings with first fork cell long and narrow, about four times as long as its petiole; second fork cell about twice the length of its

petiole. Scales on distal half of wing mostly of the type illustrated in the accompanying figure (fig. 1 A) widest beyond the middle, and with rounded apex. Scales on proximal half short, broad and truncated.

Hypopygium (fig. 2). Side-pieces (fig. 2 A) closely resembling those of *C. (Carrollia) paraplesia*, Dyar, but with a greater number of stout spines between the lobe (*l.*) and the clasper; apical part of lobe missing. *Mesosome* (fig. 2 B, C and D): lower bridge with small, highly chitinised, finely setose area (fig. 2 D, *b.*). Halves of mesosome consisting of thin plates of the form shown in the figures (fig. 2 B and C). In dorsal aspect the proximal portion (*p.*) is seen to give rise to a short inner portion (*i.*) and a much longer outer portion (*o.*), which constitutes the main part of the mesosome plate as seen in lateral view. *Ninth tergites* (fig. 2 E) about twice as high as broad; *tenth sternites* comb-shaped, with eight teeth.

It has recently been suggested by Dyar (1923) that the specimens described as *Culex originator*, Gordon and Evans (1922), from the Amazon Region, represent *Aëdinus amazonensis*, Lutz. I have, therefore, compared the types of *C. originator* with the description of Lutz's species and find that they differ in the colour of the thoracic integument, which is dark grey as described, and not ochraceous as in *A. amazonensis*; and in the character of the scales of the mesonotum and wings. The thoracic scales are narrow, but not hair-like as they are said to be in *A. amazonensis*, and there are no scales on the wings which could be described as 'Taeniorhynchus-like.' The main types of scales found on the apical part of the wing are illustrated in fig. 1; the scales on the proximal half of the wing are short and truncated. The specimen described above, however, agrees with *A. amazonensis* in these three particulars, the thoracic integument being of a conspicuously ochraceous colour. The only noteworthy difference appears to be the absence of a well defined median and fainter lateral dark mesonotal stripes in my specimen, which only shows a faint median stripe in certain lights. If, however, this character be subject to variation, it would appear highly probable that this *Culex* is *A. amazonensis*.

The structure of the side-pieces would seem to indicate a very close relationship with *Culex (Carrollia) paraplesia*, Dyar, but the latter differs in other hypopygial characters, the tenth sternites



0.05 Millimeter

FIG. 1. Scales from upper branch of vein II. A.—*Culex* sp. incert; B.—*Culex originator*, Gordon and Evans. d.—scales of upper surface of wing.

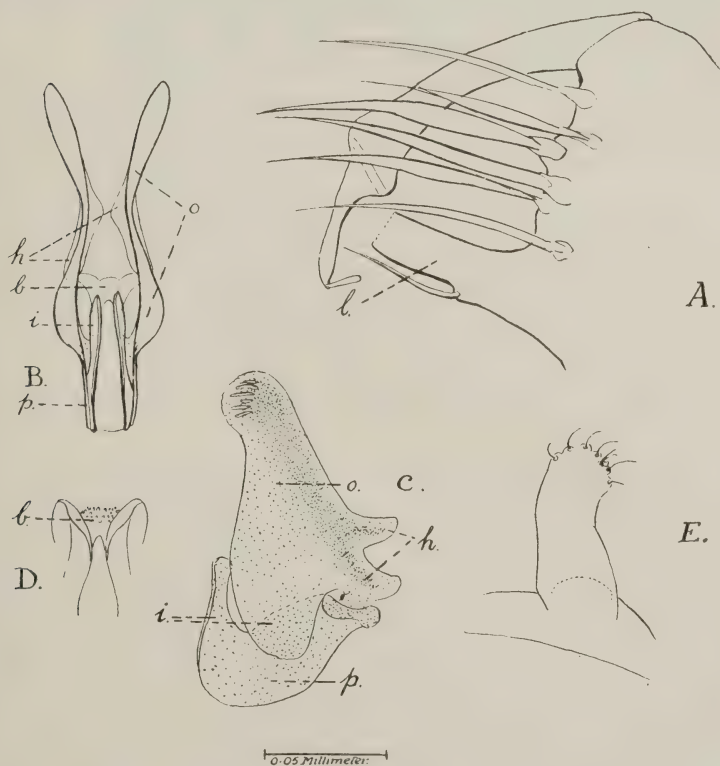


FIG. 2. *Culex* sp. incert. Hypopygium. A.—Side piece, in part with clasper. l.—lobe, broken distally. B.—Mesosome from above. b.—horns; i.—inner, o.—outer, b.—lower bridge.

having only three or four teeth, and the ninth tergites being undeveloped.

It is thus seen that at least two species of *Culex* with reduced male palpi occur in the Amazon Region; possibly others may be discovered. Should one be found agreeing externally with *A. amazonensis*, and having marked thoracic stripes as in that species, I would suggest that the name *Culex hildebrandi* be used to designate the species described above.

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